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town. He added that, if necessary, a portion of the expenditure, which however should be very small, might be levied from the people to whom the wells were a convenience.

Lastly, he said that water was not being let into the tanks of the town when the fields lay fallow. The water in the tanks was necessary for human purposes also. He requested that the Irrigation Department should be instructed to make arrangements to keep all the important tanks within the town well-supplied with water from the respective feeder channels throughout the year.

Dewan's reply.—The Chief Engineer will be asked to report on the whole question of the water-supply to the town of Nagercoil.

102. The necessity for a public market at Colachel.

Mr. R. Taylor (Member, T. I. C., Colachel) said that there was the pressing need of a central public market under proper control on a sanitary site in the town of Colachel. There were now two small private markets, one situated close to the beach and the other in the heart of the Chetty part of the town. Both the sites, he said, were unsuitable for a market, as they were insanitary and had not adequate room for the people who congregated there. He thanked the Government, on behalf of his Committee, for the grant of a site for a public market for three years, and he requested the Government to make the tenure permanent, so that the Committee might lay out money on it in erecting the necessary sheds, etc. A good central market would be a great improvement to the town, a benefit to the inhabitants, a reform much needed from a sanitary point of view, and a source of income to the Committee. He said that Wednesday and Saturday were proposed as the market days.

The present site was excellent for a market with but one drawback, and that was the absence of a suitable well, which was so very necessary for every market for washing and other purposes. The Member therefore requested that, as the funds of the Committee now would not warrant the expenditure for the sinking of a well, the Government should kindly see their way to grant a special allotment for the same.

Dewan's reply.—The land will be granted *permanently* to the Town Improvement Committee, so that they may erect the necessary sheds.

103. Trivandrum sanitation, its shortcomings, and certain suggestions for its improvement.

Mr. S. N. Krishna Iyer, B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) said that certain sanitary requirements of an indispensable character for the town of Trivandrum were pressed on the attention of the Government by himself at the last Assembly ; but as the Government had done nothing in that direction, he was forced to reiterate some of them, even at the risk of repetition.

(1) *Road-watering.*—The watering of roads was an important sanitary measure. It prevented the undue wear of the roads ; it cooled the atmosphere and stopped clouds of decaying refuse being distributed. On referring to a good many Municipalities outside the State, he learnt that road-

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watering during the hot season was carried on in all such towns. He therefore suggested that a couple of motor water-cars should be supplied, at the cost of the Government, to the Engineering Department, and the watering of the roads by means of them introduced in the town at the earliest opportunity. He added that Mr. Brunton might be willing to undertake to fit up motor waggons for the purpose at a cost of about Rs. 7,000 each.

(2) *Drain-flushing.*—There were 14 miles of masonry drains in the town, and unless they were well flushed every day, they would prove a great nuisance to the public. As, however, action was being taken by the Government in the matter, on the recommendations of the Sanitation Committee, the Member urged that the proposed reform should be carried out without the least delay. He added that, within the means available to the Committee, they were now flushing daily the drains in the Chalai bazaar and the Puthenchanthai roads for eight months in the year.

(3) *District and Munsiff's Court premises.*—He said that the insanitary condition of the premises of the local District and Munsiff's Court described by him at the last session continued without any improvement. The boundary walls had broken down in several places, the gates were not closed and locked during the night, the premises were being used every morning and evening as a public latrine, and there was no system of regular scavenging in existence. The only change effected since last year was that three out of the four gates were being closed. He understood that some action was being taken by the Government in the matter, and his request was that the condition should be improved with the least possible delay.

(4) *Vaniankulam tank.*—This was a very unhealthy swamp, overgrown with coarse vegetation, which kept out the rays of the sun from reaching the surface of the soil and water, thus preventing free evaporation and drying of the surface. It maintained the surrounding atmosphere in a humid malarious condition. Decomposing fæcal matter and decaying vegetation gave forth extremely offensive odours and produced every possible element of atmospheric impurity. The existence of the tank in its present condition was therefore a serious menace to public health, and it should either be filled up or repaired. Though it was once proposed to fill it up, the Government had now resolved to repair it. He said that, in the interests of sanitation and public health, something should be done immediately.

(5) *Putharikandom.*—The swampy tracts on either side of the Fort Police Station had all the year round a low water level. Efficient drainage has not hitherto been found feasible. Several drains discharged their filthy contents into those fields. There was a great deal of fouling of the sides. Dampness and the presence of decaying organic matter in the soil contributed to the unhealthiness of the surrounding places. He therefore urged that the Government should assume the Putharikandom marshes, thoroughly drain them, raise their level and reserve them for the recreation of the public at large.

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He next dealt with the powers of the Presidents of the Town Improvement Committees. The power to appoint, dismiss, or suspend a servant of the Committee was now vested in the President by G. O. No. G. 3711, dated the 26th June 1912, while the Committee was responsible for the administration of municipal affairs, the collection of income and the expenditure thereof. The President had no financial powers except to act on his own responsibility in emergent cases and subject to the subsequent approval of the Committee. The financial and other powers vested in the Committee could not be effectually exercised without some sort of control over the staff. From his own experience as a member and as the Vice-President of the Trivandrum Committee, he said that it would tend to the general efficiency and popularity of the service to allow the members a voice in the appointments. That was particularly needed as each non-official member represented a ward. Even a Vicharippukaran would not mind a member under the present arrangement. He said that, upon the general question of the powers of the Presidents, the Members of the present Assembly representing the various Town Improvement Committees were agreed that, in the interests of discipline, better control and efficient administration, each Committee as a body should be allowed full powers of appointment and dismissal of all its non-gazetted servants. He then read and presented a memorial signed by the representatives of all the Town Improvement Committees and requested that their united prayer for the change might receive sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Government.

In regard to the Trivandrum Committee, he said that the Government had decided that henceforth the President should ordinarily be appointed, for a period of three years, from the First Grade Tahsildars, and that decision had been carried into effect, without giving the Committee any opportunity of expressing their views on the subject. It might have been thought reasonable that the Peishkar-Presidents should be given powers of appointments up to Rs. 40, but, he said, there was no reason to give the same power to the Tahsildar-President also. The question of the powers of the President generally was discussed and settled in June 1912, but the Tahsildar-Presidentship was settled only in August 1912. They were not discussed together. The ordinary Tahsildar-President had powers of appointment only up to Rs. 20. He then compared the powers of appointments of various officers drawing high salaries and said that the power of appointment of the Trivandrum President was not proportionate to his pay. He added that the status of the Trivandrum Town Improvement Committee was much lowered by the appointment of a Tahsildar as its President, while most of the other members were gentlemen of higher position in life and were in receipt of better emoluments than a Tahsildar. He requested the attention of the Government to the matter.

The Member next pleaded for enhancing the Government grant to the Committee. The expenditure on the sanitation of the town in 1069 was Rs. 22,294, which gradually rose to Rs. 43,250 in 1081. The amount of the Government grant was gradually decreasing thereafter, and it was now fixed at Rs. 25,624. In the budget of 1088, the Government had to cut short the expenditure on certain items, with the result that the needs of the town could not properly be attended to. The allotment asked

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for under "tools and plant" was Rs. 1,400, but as the Government sanctioned only Rs. 500, the Committee were put to much difficulty for want of dust-bins, the number of which was not enough for the needs of the town. One dust-bin was ordinarily required for a furlong of road. It was not possible to increase the receipts of the Committee for some years to come under existing taxation. When the Committee was labouring under such difficulties, the Government imposed upon the Committee the services of a full-time President. His pay and allowances, together with the pensionary contribution of the officers,added Rs. 5,612 to the annual expenditure of the impoverished Committee. Though the Government asked the Committees generally to raise their funds by local taxation, instances were not wanting when such proposals were vetoed by the Government. The proposal of the Kottayam Committee to levy a toll on the carts entering the town, and that of the Sanitation Committee for levying a similar toll on the vehicles in the Trivandrum town, were not approved of by the Government. There was no other source for money. Therefore the Government grant to the Committee should be increased. He said that Trivandrum as the residence of the Sovereign, the seat of the Government and of several important institutions, had a claim for preferential treatment in the matter of the Government grant. Along with it, had to be considered the fact that the public buildings of the town were not subjected to any taxation by the Committee. If those buildings were also assessed on the principle of the Madras City Municipalities Act, the tax on them would be equal to the present grant to the Committee. The Member saw no reason why such buildings should not be taxed here also. Further, as already stated, the amount representing the salary and allowances to the President and also the pensionary contribution of the officers and subordinates of the Committee, was an unnecessary charge on the Committee which they could ill afford to bear. In the present financial condition of the Committee, they could not afford to have a full-time President, nor a high paid officer such as the Health Officer. They would also have objected to the benefits of pensions being given to their subordinates if it meant an additional charge by way of pensionary contribution or reduced the staff to some extent. But all those changes were effected by the Government without previously consulting the Committee. He therefore requested the Government to take into consideration all the above circumstances and sanction a substantial increase to the grant now allowed to the Committee, at least to the extent of the additional charge under the pay and allowances of the President and the pensionary contribution, *viz.*, Rs. 5,612.

Lastly, he requested that early attention might be bestowed on the proposals of the Committee to revise the establishment. The work in quantity and quality had considerably increased and the present establishment would not be able to cope with the increased work. Replying to the query of the Dewan about the funds, he said that the Committee could find the required funds for the revision of the staff and for the pensionary contribution on their salaries, provided the Government would increase the grant as already stated, by Rs. 5,612, which represented the pay and allowances of the President and the pensionary contribution of the present staff of the Committee.

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Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member are noted. In regard to the taxing of Sirkar buildings, reduction of the staff, pensionary contribution and matters like these, the whole Committee will have to consider the questions in all aspects and submit definite proposals for the consideration of the Government. The Government grant to the Committee will not, in any event, be increased.

The need for improving some of the existing roads and constructing new roads in the Kayankulam town.

Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Kayankulam) observed that the question of roads in the Kayankulam town and its suburbs was moved in the Assembly during the various sessions by himself and other Members and yet no works were carried out till now. He therefore requested early attention to the following roads :—

(1) The Kayankulam market road should be improved and gutters provided on either side of the same.

(2) The road from the Kayankulam market northwards to Muttom should be improved for a distance of two furlongs up to the limits of the town.

(3) The road from Kayankulam to Haripad should be improved for a distance of six miles up to Nangiarkulangara.

(4) The road from the Kartikappalli bridge to Thirkunnapuzha Arattukadavu should be improved and the bridge at Kartikappalli repaired.

He also requested that a road from the northern extremity of the Kayankulam market eastwards to the canal and another from the proposed road southwards to the canal through the eastern market, should be newly constructed.

Dewan's reply.— The Chief Engineer will be asked to expedite the several works pending execution in, or sanctioned for, the town of Kayankulam.

105. The need for increasing the Government grant to the Kayankulam Town Improvement Committee.

Mr. E. N. Kesava Pillai, B. A. (Member, T. I. C., Kayankulam) said that the town of Kayankulam stood very high in the rank of the towns of the State on account of its large volume of land trade. That the importance of Kayankulam as a trading centre was acknowledged by the Government was evident when they allowed the merchants of Kayankulam, along with the other older T. I. C. towns, to return a Member to the Popular Assembly. The Committee had not sufficient funds at their disposal to attend to the bare needs of the town. The Government grant would be just sufficient for meeting the establishment charges of the Committee. The receipts from house-tax, license fees, scavenging fees etc. would not bring in an appreciable amount in that town, as the taxable houses were few, though the town was more extensive than most of the minor towns. The Committee had no extra source of income, as in the cases of the Alwaye and Vaikom Committees. The Member therefore prayed that the grant to the Committee should be raised at least to Rs. 2,000, the minimum grant allowed to the five older towns.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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